



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2010

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

**Winter wheat** production is now forecast at 103.5 million bushels, up 11.5 million bushels from the July 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the 98.0 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.3 million acres this year with an average yield of 45.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels above the previous year and a record high surpassing the 43.0 bushels per acre set in 1999. This is the largest winter wheat crop in Colorado since 1985. As harvest progressed, producers found higher yields than originally expected. Favorable planting conditions last fall combined with mild and moist spring growing conditions contributed to the bountiful harvest. **Barley** production is forecast at 9.1 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year's crop of 10.4 million bushels. The area for harvest in 2010, at 67,000 acres, is also down from last year by 10,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 136.0 bushels per acre, one bushel above last year but down 4.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast.

**Corn** production is forecasted at 169.4 million bushels, up 12 percent from last year's 151.5 million bushels. The 1.2 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 22 percent greater than a year ago. Average yield is expected to decrease 13.0 bushels per acre from last year to 140.0, due mostly to a greater proportion of dryland acreage expected to be harvested for grain. **Sorghum** production in 2010 is forecast at 5.2 million bushels, down 23 percent from the 6.8 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 140,000 acres this year, down from 150,000 acres harvested last year. Yield prospects are 8.0 bushels below a year ago as producers expect to average 37.0 bushels per acre this year.

**Dry bean** production for 2010 is forecast at 1,159,000 hundredweight, up 37 percent from the 848,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 61,000 acres this year, up 10,000 acres from the June Acreage report and up from 53,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 778,000 tons, down 19 percent from 963,000 tons produced in 2009. Growers expect to harvest 27,800 acres this year compared with 35,000 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 28.0 tons per acre, up from 27.5 a year ago and, if realized, a record high for Colorado.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 840,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, down from 850,000 acres harvested in 2009. They also expect to harvest 780,000 acres of **other hay** in 2010, up 30,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.94 million tons compared with 3.32 million tons produced in 2009 and other hay is estimated at 1.40 million tons, down 4 percent from 1.46 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3.5 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.8 tons per acre for other hay.

Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 16.0 million pounds, equal to last year's production, once again due to late frosts and hail storms that occurred in the major growing areas.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All wheat** production, at 2.26 billion bushels, is up 2 percent from the July forecast and up 2 percent from 2009. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.9 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 2.5 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, 2.0 bushels above 2008. **Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.52 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and up slightly from 2009. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.5 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month and 3.3 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, trailing only 1999. Expected grain area totals 32.1 million acres, down 7 percent from last year but unchanged from last month. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 83 percent complete by August 1, equal to last year but 5 points behind the 5-year average. Yield forecasts were up from last month in Colorado, Montana, and Washington; down in Nebraska; and unchanged in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. If realized, yields in Colorado and Montana will be record highs. State yields in Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas all rank in the top five on record. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 633 million bushels, up 4 percent from July and up 8 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third largest production on record, trailing only 1992 and 1996. The United States yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from last month and 1.5 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, 1.5 bushels above the record set last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.6 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 5 percent from last year.

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**Barley** production for 2010 is forecast at 184 million bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 19 percent from 2009. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 72.3 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from the July 1 forecast but down 0.7 bushel from a year ago. While the forecasted yield per acre is down 1 percent from a year ago, the expected decline in production is more a reflection of the lowest planted acreage on record and the lowest expected harvested acreage since 1883. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.55 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 18 percent from 2009. Record high yields are expected in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah, while a record tying yield is forecast for Idaho.

**Corn** production is forecast at a record high 13.4 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the previous record set in 2009. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average a record high 165.0 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last year's record of 164.7. Forecasted yields are higher than last year across the upper Mississippi Valley and upper Great Lakes region where moderate temperatures and adequate soil moisture provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields were also higher compared with last year across the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley. Yield prospects are lower in both the Atlantic Coast region and Tennessee Valley due to above normal temperatures and dry conditions. **Sorghum** production is forecast at 383 million bushels, up slightly from last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.18 million acres, down 6 percent from 2009. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 74.1 bushels per acre, up 4.7 bushels from last year. In Kansas, the top producing State, yields are expected to decrease by 6.0 bushels from last year, while in Texas, the second leading State in sorghum production, record yields are expected at 70.0 bushels per acre.

**Soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.43 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 44.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's record high yield. Compared with last year, yields are forecast higher across the northern tier States, with increases of 4 bushels or more in Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The largest increase in yield from 2009 is expected in Texas, where the yield is forecast to be up 9 bushels from last year. United States **dry edible bean production** is forecast at 30.7 million cwt for 2010, up 21 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.78 million acres, up 2 percent from the June *Acreage* report and 16 percent above the previous year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.71 million acres, up 2 percent from the June *Acreage* report and 17 percent above the previous year's harvested acreage. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,798 pounds per acre, an increase of 65 pounds from 2009.

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production is forecast at 72.5 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.49 tons per acre, up 0.14 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, trailing only the 3.51 tons per acre in 1999. Harvested area is forecast at 20.7 million acres, unchanged from June but down 2 percent from the previous year's acreage. Weather conditions have been mostly favorable in many of the alfalfa hay growing regions. Heavier than normal precipitation levels this year have led to greater yield expectations in most States. The largest yield increase is forecast in Indiana where a record high yield of 4.20 tons is expected. Arizona and Nebraska are also forecasting record alfalfa hay yields. Other States with notable yield increases include Minnesota, New York, and North Dakota. States that forecast lower yields than 2009 include Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. **Other hay** production is forecast at 81.4 million tons, up 7 percent from last year, and if realized will be the second highest production level on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.09 tons per acre, up 0.11 ton from last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, surpassing the 2.06 tons per acre in 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 38.9 million acres, unchanged from June but up 1 percent from 2009. Abundant moisture has led to increased yields compared with last year in the northern and southern Great Plains, the upper Great Lakes States, and most of the Pacific Coast States. Producers in California, Nebraska, Louisiana, Montana North Dakota, and South Dakota are expecting record high yields. The largest expected yield increase occurred in Texas, up 0.90 ton, where producers are trying to replenish their hay stocks after low production levels the last two years. The largest yield reduction from last year occurred in Virginia, down 0.40 ton as hot and dry weather has reduced hay growth.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2010 crop year is forecast at 32.4 million tons, up 10 percent from last year and 21 percent above 2008. Planted area is estimated at 1.19 million acres, up fractionally from both the June *Acreage* report and last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.15 million acres, down 400 acres from the June forecast and down 2,600 acres from 2009. Expected yield is forecast at 28.3 tons per acre, an increase of 2.6 tons from last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield for the United States. Record high yields are also expected in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

The United States **apple** forecast for the 2010 crop year is 9.48 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last year. Poor weather conditions for apple production were reported by growers in the apple estimating States. Production in the Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) is forecast at 6.20 billion pounds, up 6 percent from last year. Washington production, which makes up 60 percent of the United States total, is forecast at 5.65 billion pounds, up 5 percent from last year.